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VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE PAPERS.

FROM ORIGINALS IN THE VIRGINIA STATE ARCHIVES.

CONTINUED.

CHARLES LEE,[1] TO ———.

Williamsburg, May 9th, 1776.

Sir,—As I am obliged by the arrival of the Enemy to repair to North Carolina, and am not less prompted by my zeal and affection for this Province, than obliged by my duty to take every precaution for its safety before my departure: on this principle I beg [Illegible].

1st. To devise some means for establishing a Corps of Cavalry without which, an Army is so extremely defective in every part of the world, and in none more than in this for reasons which it might be tedious to enumerate.

2dly. Without delay to order able Pilots of every River to examine accurately, the narrow part of the Channel of each River—what is the of the shoals which form these channels? whether they are sand gravel or rock? what is the distance of the nearest part of the Channel from either shore? what is the nature of the shores? whether it is high or low? [Illegible] examine enough to [Illegible] the nature of the shore? [Illegible] when these circumstances [Illegible] be shut up to the Enemy by means of batteries either floating or fixed.

3dly. As these purposes cannot be effected without a large body of Carpenters, Smiths & Artificers of every sort, to establish some Companies of them subject to the Military laws, as without a coercive power, it is difficult in this part of the world to prevail upon 'em to work.

[1] General Charles Lee, who had been assigned to the Command of the Southern districts reached Virginia in March, 1776. Going on to South Carolina he arrived in Charleston on June 4th.

JOHN GOODRICH TO DUDLEY DIGGES.[2]

Honourable Sir:

Capt. Wright Westcoat & Capt. Laban Goffagan being now in this City whom I would wish to be Present at my trial, beg you'll be Pleased to have them Detained till that time or their Depositions Taken & allow me to be Present thereat, I am

Your H'ble Serv't.

13th May, 1776. JOHN GOODRICH, Sen'r.

To the Honorable,

Dudley Diggs, Esq'r.

(Endorsement)

Colo. Cary is desir'd to attend to this Letter. D. D.

ROBERT SHEDDEN[3] TO JOHN PAGE.

W'msburg Goal, May 14th, 1776.

Hon'ble Sir:

I have been confin'd upward of three Weeks, without ever being examined or even accus'd of anything—I should submit to my fate without being troublesome at a time when you have business of Importance under your consideration, was there anything in my Conduct that would appear unfriendly to America, but as I am Convinced whenever it is enquir'd into, it will meet with your approbation I wish how soon it was Convenient for me to have a trial as my Situation is not very agreeable when I was last taken from my house. I left my Family in an unhappy situation. I had a Trial the 3d of last Month by the Com'r of Norfolk and was acquitted agreeably to the ordinance Present James Holt Esq'r a Member of the Convention.

I am Hon'ble Sir

Your Most ob't

ROBERT SHEDDEN.

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[2] Dudley Digges was a member of the Colonial Committee of Safety. Westcoat and Goffagan were officers of the State Navy.

[3] In regard to Robert Shedden, a Tory, see this Magazine, Vols. XIV and XV.

To the Hon'ble
John Page Esq'r.
President of the Committee of Safety.

DORSEY PENTECOST[4] TO THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

West Augusta, May 15th, 1776.

To the president of the Committee of Safety.

Sir:

Three days ago two reputable Gentlemen arrived in this Neighborhood from the Caintuck [Kentucky] who says that on the night of the 2nd of April last Mr. Willias Lee, Mr. Silass McCragan, both of this Colony and Mr. Joseph Lindsey of Pennsylvania was fired upon in their Camp about Eight miles from the falls of the Ohio by a party of Indians. Mr. Lee was killed Mr. McCragan wounded supposed mortally, being shott in near the nipple of the left breast, and out at the point of the right shoulder. Lindsey not hurt, they both run, McCragan being chocked with Blood fell about two hundred yards from the camp. Lindsey supposing him to be dead run to the settlements about 50 miles. A few days after McCragan came in, and said that the next morning after he was wounded he went to the Camp to get something to wrap about him, he found the Camp stripted and Everything taken away Except Lindsey's Gun (which was a heavy German piece) was broke, the lock of which with a little powder he found in Mr. Lee's horn he made fire on his march in, he

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[4] Dorsey Pentecost, a native of Virginia, was long an active militia officer and magistrate in that part of the Colony which was in dispute with Pennsylvania. In 1778 he was county lieutentant.

Willis Lee, son of Hancock Lee and Mary Willis his wife, went to Kentucky in 1774 with his brother Hancock Lee, his cousin Hancock Taylor and other surveyors. In July of that year they were attacked by the Indians and Hancock Taylor mortally and Willis Lee dangerously wounded. In 1775 the brothers were again engaged as surveyors in Kentucky, and were returning to Virginia when the party was again attacked and Willis Lee killed.

also says that Mr. Lee was neither sculped nor stripted, yet a a good deal mangled, the Informers say that the day before they Left the Caintuck a party went to Bury Lee, Denouncing vengence against all Indians they should meet with. They also say that they think the Indians ware justly Irritated by Treatment they received from Colo. Henderson and party of Men who a few days before had been at the falls, and they not being able for his party fell on this weak and Innocent Camp, (who was going to Mr. Henderson) and I am apprehensive will be productive of the spilling more Innocent Blood.

I have thought it my duty to Give the Committee this piece of Intelligence, and am Sir,

Your most obedient
Very Very Humble Serv't.
DORSEY PENTECOST.

DR. ALEXANDER SKINNER[5] TO BRIG. GEN'L. ANDREW LEWIS IN REGARD TO PAY OF ARMY SURGEONS.

17th May, 1776.

Sir:

It now becomes absolutely necessary That something

[5] The surgeons in the Virginia Continental Line for whose services land bounty had been granted before 1836 were George D. Alexander, Archibold Alexander, Cornelius Baldwin, William Brown, Mace Clements, Thomas Christie, William Carter, Sr., James Craik, Joseph Davis, Edward Duff, George Draper, Daniel De Benneville, George Evans, Humphrey Fullerton, Patrick Galt, David Griffith, Charles Greer, John M. Galt, Samuel Gay, David Holmes, Matthew Irvine, George Monroe, William McMechen, Basset Middleton, William Pelham, Robert Rose, John Ramsey, Samuel Smith, Alexander Skinner, Augustine Slaughter, Frederick Seigle, John Trezvant, James Wallace, Daniel Brown, Joseph Brown, Anthony Dixon, David Gould, Charles Green, Robert Macky, Shuball Pratt, Valentine Peyton, Joseph Quinlan, William Rumney, Charles Taylor, John Julian.

The surgeons mates (assistant surgeons) in the same list were John Brownley, Jonathan Calvert, John Knight, Miles King, Joseph McAdams, Nathan Smith, Joseph Savage, Claiborne Vaughan, George Yates, Robert Farish, William Johnston and Hugh Martin.

The surgeons of the State Line who had received land were Lodovick

should be done Respecting the pay of the Surgeons & Mates. Tho Congress I am told has made no provision for the latter unless they mean the Mates & Surgeons should have like wages, even should that be the Case Mates are not to be had in this Colony for 25 Dollars p month without Rations or forage and as to Surgeons, that is men of Education and abilities I think I may confidently Affirm not one in Virginia will think of accepting a truly a pitiable sum. No Man has the Welfare of the Country at heart would wish to make a fortune on the service. But it woud be infinitely Rediculous for any man to invoke himself in Debts during these difficult times for the good of the Public when the Public is so much more able to bear it than any Individual. The allowance which the Colony made for Surgeons & Mates was as little as they coud accept of to Go through the disagreeable drudges of their Office. At the same time it was such as they might with Economy live decently upon—Hitherto I have attended & provided necessaries for the Hospital as well as Going on

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Brodie, Thomas Carter, Anthony T. Dixon (also in Continental Line), David Gould (also in Continental), Charles Greer (also Continental), Joseph Hay, Valentine Harman, James McClurg, Matthew Pope, John Roberts, Andre Ray and Wilson C. Selden.

The surgeons mates were Jonathan Calvert (also Continental) and Thomas Kemp.

The surgeans in the State Navy who had received land were: Benjamin Chaplain, Charles Grear, George Hunter, Justice Livingstone, Walter McClurg, John Pitt, John Swoope, John Sharpless, Robert Snead, Joseph S. Pell, David Brown, William Smith Bell, William Christie, William Carter, Thomas Cheeseman, Corbin Griffin, Simon Harris, William Johnston, John McNichal, John Reynolds, James Russell, George Riddle.

Surgeons mates were John Britain, James Banks, Robert Dobson, Robert Ferguson, John Gibson, Cary Hansford, John Jennings, Janifer Marshall, David Murray, William Roe, William White, Thomas Landrum, John Lyons, William Chowning.

There were certainly other surgeons whose land bounty had not been granted up to 1836. For instance in 1776 Congress appointed Dr. William Rickman physician and director general of the Continental hospital in Williamsburg. Dr. Robert Nicolson's heirs also received bounty land.

Sundry expeditions quite out of the Line of my Duty. But the Army is now too large and the Sick too numerous for me to think of attending the General Hospital without Receiving some Consideration for the extraordinary Trouble. Besides Surgeons a Physician will be highly necessary for a General Hospital, Doctor McClurg has lately been Kind enough to do the Duties of one in expectation that some appointment of that Kind would come from the Congress. One of my Mates has allready left me & the other two will undoubtedly Leave me unless the wages are Rais'd. In short sir there are not two Mates & not a single Surgeon in the Service that will continue in it upon the continental Establishment. The sooner you can Get this Matter settled the better and if it is not done shortly the Sick I am affraid will be left in a pitiable condition. I am Sir Respectfully

Your very H'ble serv't,

ALEX'R SKINNER.

P. S. The Congress has not thought of a purveyor for the Hospital, the necessity of such an Officer will I dare say Readily occur to you Mr. Lindsey has provided most of the necessaries is only wanting & I have an order of the Committee of Safety to take the College—

To Brigadier General Lewis.

RECOMMENDATION OF ROBERT WARD.

Kemp's Land'g, May 21st, 1776.

Mr. Rob't Ward has serv'd in the Com'y of Minnet Battalion till Discharge & since has serv'd with the Regular Trops at this place During all which time from Nov'r last untill now I have bin eye witness to his Conduct I can with great justice say he is truly Deserving he has done his Duty like a Soldier and as such, I hope he will meritt accordingly, the said Gent'n always has serv'd as a Vollinteer.

FRANK EPPES.

I also wish to Recommend Mr. Ward.

CHS. SCOTT.

Papers Relating to John Goodrich.

Eastwood's Deposition.

James Eastwood sworn saith:

That he was Master of a Vessell belonging to John Goodrich who being on Board, intended to St. Eustatia from a place called South Key where they had taken in Naval Stores: That in the month of November last on their way out, they were met at Ocrecock Bay, by a Pilot Boat with these officers in the British service, which much alarmed the Deponent, who proposed hawling up Anchor and carrying the Vessell from them, but he was told by the said Goodrich not to be uneasy, for that he did not come there with his Fingers in his Mouth. That the officers boarded their Vessell and the said Goodrich, on his producing, as he said, a pass from Lord Dunmore, that he was an old Rascal and the pass was forged, for Lord Dunmore would not grant such an one; and they were immediately put down the hole with Guards set over them, and Orders given, that they should not have any thing to eat or drink and were also threatened with Irons; that the said Goodrich being then very wet desired the Officer would let him have a change of cloaths and also his Bed with him in the Hole, which was refused. That three or four days afterwards, the said Goodrich was sent round to Norfolk in his own Vessell and the Deponent requested the officer he might be sent with him which he refused he said for want of Irons: about three weeks afterwards the Deponent was carried to Norfolk in a Tender, where he found the said Goodrich released on his Parole and the Deponent was immediately called upon to give Testimony concerning an Information lodged by the said Goodrich against Capt. Jones, for the manner in which he was treated when taken.

That soon afterwards the said Goodrich went on his Parole and the Deponent discharged and set on shore. The Deponent being interrogated saith, that the Vessell was made a prize and stript of all her sail and Rigging. That while the Vessell lay at Ocrecock Bar, the Deponent, was going on shore

to procure a pilot to carry her out, but on the way met with one and a Midshipman coming to the Vessell; that as soon as they returned on Board, the Pilot asked the said Goodrich where he would have the Vessell carried, who replied into Teachy's Hole. That the Vessell was used by Capt. Montagu as a Tender. That they kept a strickt look out for Tenders, and those which took the Vessell, were so disguised that they came very near them, before they were discovered to be an Enemy. Signed by

JAMES EASTWOOD,

May 29th, 1776.

Goal in W'msburg, 29th May, 1776.

The Compliments of John Goodrich Waits on the Honorable Committee of Safety to Inform them Mrs. Goodrich is Expected here this forenoon with a few necessaries for our subsistence begs your Honorable House will be Pleased to give the Requisite Orders for her admittance as she Means staying with me During my confinement.

I with Regard am Gentlemen

Your Most Obedient,

JOHN GOODRICH, Sen'r.

To The Honorable John Page Esq'r. Chairman of the Committee of Safety.

AT A COURT OF ENQUIRY HELD MAY 3, 1776.

Present:

Captain Davies pres't.

Capt. Stevenson,	Capt. Clarke,
Lieut. Lewis,	Ens'n. Stubbs.

George Oldner was brought before the Court charged with trading with the enemy, furnishing them with provision and attempting to encourage desertion among the troops of the

continental army. The court being well informed that the above facts can be proved against him by the oaths of Wm. Bickerdick, Wm. Jamieson and a Soldier in Capt. Markham's company and another in Capt. Matthew's, who are all at present out of town, the trial is deferred.

Levi Whitehurst, taken by scouting party was examined but nothing appeared against him, he is discharged.

Charles Henly for aiding and assisting the enemy was bro't the court but alledging that his witnesses were not ready, his trial is put off.

John Jones for drunkenness was examined and upon promise of good behavior in future he is discharged.

William Bliss (formerly belonging to Capt. Picket's Company, but lately come to this place as escaped from the fleet, where he says he was taken prisoner) was examined upon suspicion of desertion, and being unable to give any account of the fleet and the Court having reason to believe he has forged a tale for his purpose they are of opinion that he be sent to W'msburg for evidence to be obtained from Capt. Picket and his company.

David Ramsey taken by scouting party was examined. It appears that he is mate to the prisoner's vessel in the fleet; that he has been uncommonly kind to them; that he was ready at all hours and in all weathers to turn out to procure fresh provisions for them, that he has several passes from them, all of them expressing in the highest terms his great services to them; that he has also a pass from the Captain of the Crany Island guard for the purpose of getting provisions for the prisoners; that at the time of his being taken he had Col. Lawson's pass to return to the prisoners vessel, with a small basket of greens and a few eggs, which was all that was found upon him. The prisoner says he was always desirous to go up the country but being a poor man and a person owing him money he has staid in expectation of getting it; that he is very willing to go into the continental naval service, but would be glad to

have leave to send or go for his cloaths. The court recommend him to the favor of the commanding officer.

WILLIAM DAVIES.

[Endorsement].

Proceedings of the Court on Enquiry, 3d May, 1776.
Oldner, Whitehurst. Henley, Bliss & Ramsey.

DORSEY PENTECOST TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

West Augusta, June 2d, 1776.

To the Hon'ble the President of the Comm. of Safety.
Williamsburgh.

Sir:

The unhappy difference[6] so long subsisting between this Colony & that of Pennsylvania, (which hath Produced so much mischief in this part of the country) hath lately been Productive of more disturbances than ever, in consequence of the Assembly of that Province lately commissioning a number of Persons in this Country as officers of the Militia, and some recent attempts to inforce their Civil authority, the officers of this Colony hath Inviolably observed the recommendation of the Delegates of the two Colonys in Congress last Faul, but I am sorry to say their officers hath acted a very different part, and I am apprehensive if Government doth not do something to stop the Progress it will Terminate in very serious consequences, for a lite [alike?] the Two Governments are

[6] For many years a dispute existed between Virginia and Pennsylvania as to the ownership of the territory embraced in the northern part of the present West Virginia, and western Pennsylvania. This dispute was not infrequently accompanied by violence. On June 15, 1776, the Virginia Convention proposed a temporary dividing line. The matter was finally decided by commissioners appointed by the two states: Rev. James Madison and Robert Andrews on the part of Virginia, and George Bryan, John Ewing and David Rittenhouse for Pennsylvania. In 1779 they reached an agreement which was confirmed by the two states. The final report, however, of the commissioners appointed to run the line was not made until August 23, 1785. See *Hening*, X, 519-537.

Exercising their authority in one and the same place neither can be Inforced. Good order and Government of course is Destroyed & Anarchy & Confusion set up, a disunity is allready taken place, and I wish it may not grow into an Invetered Hatred & Implacable malice, the neighborhood that I live in (which a few weeks ago were in perfect unity & peace) are now in the utmost Confusion, which these new Created officers, Faithfully labour to Continue & consent. Besides these Evils the Insults offered to this Colony is as unpardonable as they are unjust. I would wish to be cautious in my Behaviour Towards these people and therefore hath conceived it my duty to Lay these matters before your Honorable Assembly, though perhaps it might come more Properly before the Convention, but as I am not certain of the Convention's being convened hope it will not be amiss to advise you thereof and await your Orders. And am Sir with the utmost Defference.

Your most obedient
Very Humb. Serv't.
DORSEY PENTECOST.

HENRY DUDLEY APPLIES FOR A COMMISSION.

Colo. Edmund Pendleton,
Williamsburg.

Sir:

Mr. Henry Dudley[7] a Cadet in my Company is desirous of getting some post in the Horse; I should esteem it a favour if you would recommend him; as I think him a worthy young man.

I am sir y'r humble ser.
G. SMITH.

June 2, 1776.

PETITION OF JOHN STADLER,[8] ENGINEER.

The subscriber engaged in the Service of the Colony as

[7] Henry Dudley was a captain in a Virginia State Regiment from 1778 to 1781.

[8] On June 7, 1776, the Virginia Convention received a letter from Brig-

Engineer, on a view of having such pay and allowance towards executing this Duty, as is common in the Army. Namely the pay not to be under 10 shill'gs per Day Virginia Currency and all travelling Expenses to be allowed, that may exceed those ten shillings. A Theodolite and chain to be furnished by the public together with a Servant and one Horse for the Purpose of carrying those Instruments.

That his Rations be equal to those of a Captain in the Service and that Forage be allowed for two Horses. The above mentioned pay to commence from the 4th Day of May being the Time I entered upon Duty, and to continue together with the other Requisites above mentioned without abatement wherever the service may require my attendance.

Williamsburg the 3d of June 1776.

JOHN STADLER.

DORSEY PENTICOST[9] TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Hannah Town Goal, June 4th, 1776.

To the President of the Committee of Safety, Virginia.

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adier General Andrew Lewis, stating the necessity of retaining Mr. John Stadler, an engineer in the Continental Army, in the service, and that this could only be done by an increase of pay. Accordingly it was ordered that he be paid ten shillings per day (including his allowance from Congress), and all travelling expenses, together with a servant and horse to carry his instruments, and that his rations should be those of a captain, with forage for two horses.

[9] The note in regard to Dorsey Pentecost in *Dunmore's War*, pp. 101-102, is entirely misleading.

It states that "In 1777 he removed to Youghiogheny River, and for several years was a judge for Washington county. In 1778 he aided as county lieutenant in gathering troops for Clark's Illinois expedition."

The reader would naturally infer that Col. Pentecost was the commanding officer of Washington county, Pa., and that as such he raised men in Pennsylvania to assist Clark. This would be an entirely erroneous impression. By a commission from the Virginia Government he was county lieutenant of the Virginia county of Yohogania. He was soon released from this imprisonment.

Sir,—A few days ago I was applied to by a person for a Process against a certain Thomas Scott of this Neighborhood for Issuing Executors against a Number of Persons & particular the Complaint I accordingly Issued a process calling him before me, he defended himself against the officers but Told him he would meet him at my House on a Certain day at which Time he appeared & after him the Sheriff of Westmoreland County in Pennsylvania with a Large Body of armed men, seized on my person & brought me to this place, where surety was Deman'd of me to appear before the next court of said County to answer to such misdemeners as should then be objected against me, thereby acknowledging myself to be amenable to the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania which I conceived not to be consistent with my duty & the honor of the Colony, I therefore refused to comply with the aforesaid Requisition, in consequence of which I was committed to confinement, where I shall continue until I shall receive yours, or other orders from the Colony which I have the Honor of Serving.

I am sir your most ob'd't.
Very Humble Serv't.
DORSEY PENTECOST.

CHARLES HENLEY[10] TO THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

To the Honourable the Gentlemen of the Committee of Safety.

Gentlemen:

I beg leave to inform you that my Evidences arrived yesterday from Princess Anne County & humbly desire your honours to bring me to trial as soon as possible. I am

Gentlemen
Your most obed't & Very
Humble Serv't.
CHARLES HENLEY.

Goal, 6th June, 1776.

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[10] On June 7, 1776, the convention resolved that Charles Henley had been guilty of giving information to the enemy, and that he should be punished as by law provided.

GEORGE OLDNER[11] TO THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

To the Honourable the Gentlemen of the Committee of Safety.

Gentlemen:

I beg leave to inform you that I am afflicted in Body with pains in my bones and other indispositions that life is almost tiresome in my present Confinement, my Evidences arrived yesterday & therefore humbly hope your honours will be pleased to bring me to trial as soon as you can. I am

Gentlemen

Your mo't obed. & very
Humble Servant
GEORGE OLDNER.

Goal 6th, June 1776

JOHN CARMOUNT TO THE CONVENTION OF SAFETY.

To the Honourable Gentlemen in Convention Assembled.

Virginia,

Gentlemen:

Being convinced that Justice regulates all your proceedings I am induced to make application to you in my present unhappy situation.

I would therefore inform you that I was taken prisoner 4 Months ago, without any accusation being brought against me to this present time: tis true I did come from on board a Vessell in Norfolk harbour and did not doubt but I should have been tried by the County Committee as were many others, but that privilege was denied me, & march'd up here before ever I was heard: upwards of a Month ago I was call'd before the Committee of Safety (where it was resolv'd as I am told) that I must return back for trial to the Committee for the County of Norfolk, nevertheless I am still detain'd in Confinement & your honours cannot be insensible of the hardships a person must suffer in that time, without a change of

[11] On June 7, the convention ordered that George Oldner be removed from Norfolk to the interior.

Linnen money or any other necessary, besides the singular treatment I have met with from the officers in the Army which would be too long to insert here as I do not wish to be troublesome; but would be glad to be called before your honourable house to receive my sentence, as it must be allow'd that if there is any evidence against me there has been time enough to produce them since I was sent here prisoner; if you should judge proper to return me to the County Committee I doubt not but you will be pleas'd at same time to make provision for the Expences I have been at up and down, I am,

Gentlemen, your most
obed't. Hum Serv't.

JNO. CARMONT.

Goal 8th, June 1776.

JOHN NEVILL[12] TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Fort Pitt, June 13th, 1776.

Sir,—Conceiving it to be my Duty at this Time of public

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[12] John Nevill was born in Virginia, (probably in that part of Prince William county afterwards Fauquier), July 26, 1721, and died at Montours Island, Alleghany county, Pa., July 29, 1803. He served in the French and Indian War, and afterwards removed to Frederick county. Later he removed to the neighborhood of Fort Pitt (Pittsburg), and was chosen member of the convention of March, 1775, for West Augusta. By resolution adopted in the Virginia convention on August 7, 1775, John Nevill was directed to march with his company of one hundred men and take possession of Fort Pitt. He remained in command here until June, 1777. He was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel 12th Virginia regiment Nov. 12, 1776; Colonel 8th Virginia Dec. 11, 1777; transferred to 4th Virginia Sept. 14, 1778, and served to the close of the war; brevet Brigadier General Sept. 30, 1783. From 1777 he was under Washington, and was with his regiment at Valley Forge. After the war he returned to Pittsburgh, and was for many years a prominent citizen of Pennsylvania. He married August 4, 1754, Winifred, daughter of John Oldham of Westmoreland county Va. General Nevill was son of George Nevill and Ann Burroughs, his wife. Among George Nevill's other children were Presley Nevill, who was major and aid-de-camp to Lafayette in 1778; commissioned brevet Lt. Col. Oct. 27, 1778, cap-

Danger to acquaint you with every Circumstance (tho was so trivial) relative to the common safety of the Colonies. I have done myself the Honor to inform you of the present situation of affairs in this Country.

Mr. James O'Hara, (a Gentleman whose veracity may be depended on, who was employed by Mr. Jno. Campbell to purchase Powder at Sanduski agreeable to Mr. Campbells Instructions from the Committee of Safety) having just return'd brings the following Intelligence (viz):

That there are now in Detroit one hundred Regulars, that there are encamped around the Fort Seven hundred Indians, consisting of Hurons, Kikepoo's Tawas, Miamis, Powtowatomies, & Wiahthonies that there are in the Fort two Pieces of Brass, & fifty Iron Cannon, that there are in the River the Gage of 26 Guns, & the Dunmore of Twenty four, with several other small armed Vessels that some of the Inhabitants (who are French) have been press'd to man those Vessels, that others for fear of meeting the same Treatment, have abandoned their Houses and Plantations, that Provisions are very scarce and consequently dear at Detroit: Beef being 18d per pound, and Flour allmost unattainable at any Price, so that we apprehend the Indians will shortly be necessitated thro want to disperse, that they had for some part expected an Army would be sent against them from Virg'a, who they heard were on their March, he likewise informs us that six Mingoes have gone out to war against some part of Virg'a and I daily expect to hear of some mischief being done either on the Kaintucky or Great Kanhaway. I am sorry to inform you that some of our leading men in this Quarter are strongly suspected of Disaffection to the common Cause, as a certain

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tured at Charleston, exchanged in 1781, and served to the end of the war, dying Dec. 1, 1818; and Joseph Nevill, who was member of the House of Burgesses for Hampshire county at the sessions of March, 1773, May 1774, June 1775, and of the convention of Dec. 1775. During the latter part of the Revolution he was county lieutenant of Hampshire, and later was a brigadier general of Virginia militia. He died March 4, 1819.

Geo. Girty, who came to this place a few days ago informs us, that he met a certain Paul Long (who hath been long connected with Colo. Geo. Chroghan, and Capt. Alex'r McKee) Between Kuskuskie & Vinangs on his way to Niagra with ten Letters; what the Purport of them may be or from whom I cannot say however certain it is he is gone to that Place, and that in a very secret manner. But Mr. Jno. Campbell, Capt. Gipson and myself shall use every Endeavor to intercept him on his Return and by his answers find out his Business. There has been a Petition to the Congress privately set on Foot and carried on by some of our first men to have this the West Side of the Allegeny struck off into a new and seperate Government; what may be their Intent I cannot suggest; but Mr. Jno. Campbell who will either accompany or follow shortly after this Letter will present you with a Copy of it; the same Gentleman, Capt. Gibson and myself have with some difficulty got it suppressed for the present, but how soon it will revive is uncertain.

I informed you by Mr. Harvey that the time my Company listed for was nearly expired, the most of them have given me Notice that they intend serving no longer. I should be glad of having your Directions how to proceed by the earliest opportunity.

I am, Sirs your very Humb. Serv't,

JOHN NEVILL.

(TO BE CONTINUED)